

Vocabulary I

问候	wèn hòu	greet, greeting (verb/noun)
请	qǐng	please (normally followed by a verb)
问	wèn	ask
在	zài	1. in, at (a place); 2. replace -ing (doing something)
家	jiā	home, house, family
进	jìn	enter
好久	hǎo jiǔ	好 replaces 很=very / so; 久=long (time)
不	bù	not
见	jiàn	see
非常	fēi cháng	very, so

Tone rule – ‘不 bù’

- under normal circumstances, it's 4th tone: bù
- when placed before a character with 4th tone, it will change from 4th (bù) → 2nd tone (bú)

Dialogue I

qǐng wèn Lìlì zài jiā ma

汤姆：请问，丽丽在家吗？

Excuse me, is Lily home?

zài qǐng jìn

丽丽：在，请进！

Yes, please enter!

nǐ hǎo Lìlì

汤姆：你好，丽丽！

Hello, Lily!

nǐ hǎo Tāngmǔ

丽丽：你好，汤姆！

Hello, Tom!

hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn nǐ hǎo ma

汤姆：好久不见， 你好吗？

Long time no see, how are you?

wǒ hěn hǎo nǐ ne

丽丽：我很好，你呢？

I'm very good, what about you?

wǒ yě hěn hǎo

汤姆：我也很好。

I'm very good, too.

New words explanation

好 hǎo:

- can replace 很=very / so

e.g. 好好=very good

Vocabulary II

坐	zuò	sit
吃	chī	eat
喝	hē	drink
茶	chá	tea
咖啡	kā fēi	coffee
了	le	1. change of tense; 2. supporting word; 3. change of state
谢谢	xiè xie	thank you
还是	hái shì	or, still
不客气	bú kè qì	you're welcome
太	tài	too (adjective), very / so / extremely usually 太...(adjective)...了
会	huì	1. can (skills); 2. will

New words explanation

客气 kè qi = generous, modest, polite (adjective)

so, 不客气 implies 'don't be so generous'

Grammar**Using '了 le' as supporting word:**

- put 了 at the end of the phrase to intensify adjectives.

- 太...(adjective)...了! = Too (adjective)!

e.g. 太好了! = Too good!

Dialogue II

qǐng zuò nǐ chī le ma

A: 请坐，你吃了吗？

Please sit, have you eaten yet?

wǒ chī le

B: 我吃了。

Yes, I have.

nǐ hē kā fēi hái shì chá

A: 你喝咖啡还是茶？

Do you drink coffee or tea?

wǒ hē chá

B: 我喝茶。

I'll drink tea.

qǐng hē chá

A: 请喝茶。

Please drink tea.

xiè xie

B: 谢谢！

Thank you!

bú kè qi

A: 不客气！

You're welcome!

Grammar Talk - Expressing tenses & saying 'can' (for skills)

- ◆ In Chinese, the characters for a verb are the same as its other tenses

Past tense:

了 le (as function of change of tense)

- add 了 after a verb to make it a 'present perfect', 'simple past' or 'past perfect' tense
- e.g. 吃→吃了=eat → ate / have eaten / had eaten

Present continuous tense:

在 zài =in, at (a place); replace -ing

replace -ing

- add before a verb to make it a 'present continuous' tense
- e.g. 吃→在吃=eat → is eating

Future tense:

会 huì =will, can / know (how to do something)

- add before a verb to make it a 'future' tense
- e.g. 吃→会吃=eat → will eat / will be eating

Using '会 huì' to mean 'can do a skill'

- add before a verb
- 我会 cook = I can cook

Vocabulary III

看	kàn	look, see, read, watch
听	tīng	hear, listen
读	dú	read
说	shuō	say, speak